



Carolina Mountain Club

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Valuable Hiking Resource Mapmakers Needed, Training Offered

By Charlie Ferguson

For many years a few CMC members have been making maps and elevation profiles that accompany the hike descriptions in our hike database. Our detailed hike database helps make CMC's website one of the best hiking resources on the internet. These maps and profiles, and the GPS data that they were made from, are free for anyone to download and use. We would like to train a few more people to make the maps and profiles in an attempt to keep the database up to date, especially for new hikes. Making the maps is not particularly technical - no computer science or programming skills are required. There are four

Windows based programs, that are reasonably user friendly, used in the process. This is a brief description of the process:

1. Someone will have hiked with their GPS on, and will have submitted the track file to the hiking committee.
2. A GPS mapping program is used to clean up the GPS track file, which is usually just deleting some track points at the beginning and end of the hike and lunch breaks.
3. The file from step 2 is loaded into another GPS mapping program that has access to USGS topo map scans. A PDF file is made of the hike track data overlaid on the topo map.
4. A table from step 2 is copied and pasted into an Excel or LibreOffice spreadsheet. A PDF file is made of the elevation data to make the profile file.
5. These three files are uploaded to the website.

Once one gains proficiency, this process can take 10-20 minutes for each hike. An example of these files can be found in the description for hike 763 .

Training will consist of detailed written instructions, a group training session and individual instruction and help, as needed. The basic skills needed are those that one normally gains using a desktop or laptop computer while using a range of applications. Those who are interested should be comfortable diving into new computer related tasks. It would helpful, although not required, to have a handheld trail GPS or be familiar with how they work. Charlie Ferguson and Dave Wetmore will provide the initial training. Charlie will also provide follow up training and help. Anyone interested in learning to make maps for the CMC website can contact Charlie Ferguson at ccf@carolinamountainclub.org

Once we have a list of interested map-makers, we will sort out when to schedule the training.

Mortimer Campground Camporee Scheduled For October

Save the dates for the fall camporee set for October 2, 3, 4, 2015. Ted Snyder, who is coordinating the event, will be taking reservations after June 15. For more information, contact him at tedsnnyderjr@bellsouth.net



Below is a revised list of hikes:

Saturday, October 3rd

1. South Fork Harper Creek Loop. Two waterfalls. Twelve wet crossings. 9.76 miles. Inside Wilderness Study Area. Trailhead close to campground. Leader: Jill Gottesman.
2. Upper Wilson Creek from FS 45 up Wilson Creek, then up Stackrock Creek and Andrews Creek to FS 192. Many wet stream crossings. 6.6 miles. Extremely scenic streamside walk. Shuttle. Leader: TBA
3. Lost Cove Creek Loop. Hike goes down Gragg Prong, up Lost Cove Creek, passing Hunt-Fish Falls. There will be a side trip to Little Lost Cove Creek Falls. Then up the zig-zag trail, and over Bee Mountain to Timber Ridge and down its trail to the starting point. Eight Miles. Ten wet crossings. Inside Wilderness Study Area. Leader: Paul Benson.



CMC Debuts New Youth Challenge

By Jan Onan and Kay Shurtleff

CMC is introducing a new, unique challenge to encourage CMC members and youth to share hiking experiences. The youth Partner Challenge (YPC) has an educational component, which showcases different land management areas and will include a patch for those who complete the challenge.

The Youth Partner Challenge offers 10 hikes for the challenge; 8 of which are required to complete the challenge. With education being a priority, each hike has been selected to showcase 8 different land managements: Wilderness Area, Blue Ridge Parkway, Land Conservancy, Cradle of Forestry, Mountains to Sea Trail, Appalachian Trail, State Forest, and State Park. (Many of these hikes are in the National Forest).

The YPC debut hike will be September 26 on the A.T. at Max Patch in partnership with the ATC on National Public Lands Day. There will be 2 YPC hikes scheduled each quarter beginning in the 4th quarter of 2015. This will allow each participant to earn his or her patch within a year's time. Kay Shurtleff and I plan to lead the first 8 hikes, which will be scheduled on Saturdays at 10 a.m. and Sundays at 1p.m. We encourage other hike leaders to join us as future YPC hike leaders. As with our other CMC challenges, you may choose to complete any of the hikes on your own or on a club sponsored hike. Both the Youth and the Partner are encouraged to read and discuss the information provided on the website. There will be links to historical and other educational information. Each youth will be required to write an interesting fact about the area hiked on the log.

The Youth Partner Challenge patch will be awarded to each youth who finishes 8 of the 10 hikes with any CMC member. If a CMC member partners with a youth on all 8 hikes, then he/she may earn a patch as well.

Rules

- CMC membership is required; paid dues must be current at time of application for completion patch.
- Youth is described as those younger than 18 years of age. Youth do not need to be members, although they may be.
- A CMC member may partner with as many as 6 youth a year to earn their patch.

A separate log must be turned in for each participant including the name of the CMC partner(s), an interesting fact and date each hike was completed.

All 8 hikes must be completed in full before submitting the application for the patch. There is no time limit for completion. Recognition CMC adult members and youth must complete the Youth Partner Challenge Log. Completers will receive a patch and certificate of completion. Those who complete the Youth Partner Challenge must submit their completed log by mail or email to CMC Education and Outreach Chair, Kay Shurtleff at P.O. Box 68, Asheville, NC 28802. Patches will be awarded at the CMC Annual Meeting each year in November. Patches will be mailed after the Annual Meeting for completers unable to attend. Please address questions to Kay Shurtleff at kshurtleff@msn.com

Kay and I want to thank the CMC council members for supporting and approving this new challenge at the May meeting. The challenge expands our hike options by offering shorter educational hikes that can be shared with youth. Not only will current CMC members be encouraged to share hiking experiences with you, but also community outreach programs. Hopefully, many youth will become lifelong hikers! The YPC information will be found under Education/Community Outreach on our CMC website. Look for it soon.

Prizes By Diamond Brand Outdoors Carolina Mountain Club Photo Contest

By Ann Hendrickson

Attention all shutterbugs! Get out your cameras, GoPros or cellphones with cameras. The CMC wants your best shots from the trail! Winning photographs of the new photo contest will be featured on the website and the photographers (and their photos) will be recognized at the Annual Meeting. Categories for the contest include:

1) Landscape, 2) People on the Trail, and 3) Plants, and/or animals. Entries will be accepted until Sept 30, 2015.





Alum Cave Trail Closed Until November 19

Great Smoky Mountains National Park officials announced that a 2-year trail restoration project has begun on Alum Cave Trail. The trail and associated parking areas are closed May 4 through November 19, excluding federal holidays, on Monday mornings at 7:00 a.m. through Thursday evenings at 5:30 p.m. weekly. Due to the construction process on the narrow trail, a full closure is necessary for the safety of both the crew and visitors. The trail will be fully open each week on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

The Trails Forever crew will focus restoration efforts on several targeted locations along the 5-mile trail to improve visitor safety and stabilize eroding trail sections. Alum Cave Trail is one of the most popular trails in the park, leading hikers to iconic areas including Arch Rock, Inspiration Point, Alum Cave Bluffs, Mt. Le Conte, and LeConte Lodge. Park rangers respond to numerous accidents along the trail each year, especially along the upper, narrow corridors. The planned work will improve overall trail safety and protect natural resources by repairing historic cable and handrail systems, reinforcing hanging trail sections, reducing trail braiding, and improving drainage to prevent further erosion. There are also several narrow areas where erosion and small landslides have damaged significant sections of the trail, making it difficult to safely travel through the areas during inclement weather or to pass hikers coming from the opposite direction. By restoring these fragile trail sections, the park can best ensure long-term sustainability and protect trailside natural communities from degradation.

Smucker Appointed CMC Archivist

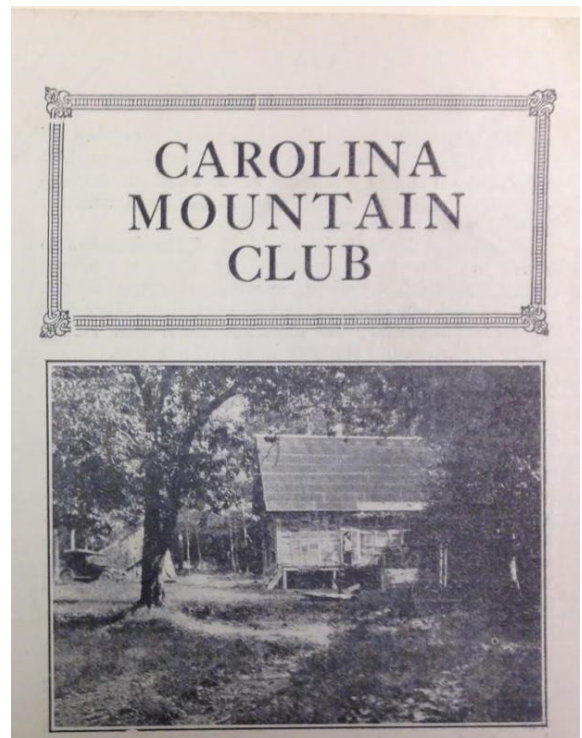
Rocko Smucker was appointed CMC's new archivist during the May Council Meeting. He replaces Peter Steurer, the former historian/archivist. Rocko said he has had an interest in history from a very young age. "I became interested in CMC history after researching the creation of the my MST trail section."



He has some ideas on what he would like to do as archivist. "I'd like to set a standard of how reports, documentation, pictures, videos, etc. are compiled and accessed. I've come to realize that names, bios, locations, dates, and intentions are important in documenting and archiving even for simple CMC postings on Facebook. And, since hardcopies are becoming less and less common, how does one preserve history without losing it in a digital blur?"

Rocko shared some CMC history that most members are unaware of. Below is the early vision of what CMC was to be. To the right is a picture from a CMC pamphlet. Rocko hopes to continue to share club treasures such as these with the members.

CMC Collections, Box 16, Folder 1



This is a cropped picture from the front of the first CMC pamphlet (a small tri-fold), published in 1924. The picture may be one of the CMC cabins in the Pink Beds.

THE CALL OF THE PIONEER BLOOD

There is a reverential regard in most of us for our

hardy forebears who hewed their way through the wilderness. In early youth this shows itself in the instinctive desire to emulate the example of these doughty pathfinders. In response to this call of the blood it is the endeavor of the Club to offer modest opportunity to keep alive the desire, not only during, but particularly beyond the period of youth.

Carolina Mountain Club, 1924



CMC Honored By Conservancy For "Selfless" Devotion To Trail Work

North Carolina's 24 local land trusts bestowed their annual awards on deserving winners during a lunch celebration at the land trusts' annual meeting at the Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville on May 15th. The NC Land Trust awards are given annually to businesses, nonprofits, governments, and individuals who lead efforts to protect the state's streams and lakes, forests, farms, parkland and wildlife habitat, thereby protecting clean drinking water and air quality,

local food, and outdoor recreation.

Five years ago, Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy (CMLC) began pursuing a complement to our budding conservation efforts in the Hickory Nut Gorge: the development of an extensive hiking trail network that would provide public access to visitors seeking to enjoy these natural treasures as well as connectivity to enable them to traverse the ridges, hollows, and forests that link them together. This trail network-which has now reached nearly 10 miles in length-enables nature seekers of all abilities and interests the opportunity to enjoy our conserved lands, and ultimately make the connection between the importance of natural resource protection and public access and recreation. CMLC quickly discovered that public trails quickly increased the immediate relevancy and the direct tangibility of land conservation. This trail network-and its incalculable benefit on land conservation in our region-would not be possible without the tireless efforts and dedicated service of the Carolina Mountain Club (CMC). Simply put, the CMC has put these trails on-the-ground. Since our initial partnership with the CMC on the Bearwallow Mountain Trail in 2010, to the completion of the Trombatore Trail linking conserved lands of CMLC and SAHC in 2013, to the extension of the Little Bearwallow Trail in 2015, the CMC has created-from scratch-the Upper Hickory Nut Gorge Trail and brought its planned 15-mile length to 66% completion. And they're still just getting started. To do this, the volunteers from the CMC donated an astonishing 5,563 hours to Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy. That is the equivalent of one volunteer building trail eight hours a day, every day, for nearly two straight years. And while their donated hours are impressive, the demanding nature of their selfless work is even more impressive. Volunteers endure extreme temperatures and challenging weather conditions all while carrying heavy tools in particularly rugged and steep terrain. Their work is mentally daunting, sometimes often dangerous, and always physically taxing. Bugs, snakes, poison ivy, falling rocks, dirt and mud, sweltering humidity to frozen ground, and long arduous hikes to the work sites-no obstacle is too much for the CMC in their pursuit of building trail to enable others-for generations to come-to enjoy our natural heritage and cherished conserved lands. The CMC has defined selfless devotion to facilitating the enjoyment of our natural heritage among the community. Land conservation is more known, appreciated, and directly "touched" thanks to the immense involvement of the CMC in the Hickory Nut Gorge. And thanks to their hard work, the stage is set for much more of it to come. For their incomparable, selfless contribution of time, effort, and energy to CMLC's Upper Hickory Nut Gorge Trail network-as well as their ongoing steadfast stewardship to the trails they have created-the NC Land Trust Council and CMLC are honored to recognize the Carolina Mountain Club as the 2015 Community Conservation Partner of the Year.

Supreme Court Justice Completes South Beyond 6000 Challenge

Congratulations to NC Supreme Court Justice Sam Ervin IV on becoming the most recent completer of Carolina Mountain Club's South Beyond 6000 (SB6K) challenge! Judge Ervin, who started the challenge in 2003, finished his 40th "sixer" last month atop 6,155 ft. Big Cataloochee Mountain with his son, Jamie.



Blue Ridge Hiking Company donated \$1,000 to the CMC. Jennifer Pharr presented the money to the club at the Spring Social in April.



This Thursday

CMC Members Invited To Art Opening

"Begin Again" an art exhibition at Jubilee! Gallery during the month of June features Valarie Macklin and CMC members Maureen Simon and Kathy Kyle who collectively celebrate and commemorate their individual transformative journeys as artist.

Come celebrate with these three talented women at their Opening Reception on Thursday, June 4, from 5 - 8 pm. at 46 Wall Street, Asheville, N.C.

Maureen Simon's photography represents images of cities, the people and culture. Capturing nature is also one of Maureen's specialties. Begin Again is Maureen's life theme over the past 5 years as she has transformed into a thriving artist and woman.

Kathy Kyle is a potter and her hand-built pieces reflect in form and texture her love of the forests, the fertile plant life and the meandering shapes of the mountains. Her pottery is mostly organic and functional pieces. Kathy is excited to exhibit for the first time.

Valarie Macklin is a literary artist and draws upon photography as inspiration in her work. She captures in photography what she "hears" with her eyes in flowers and nature. In the exhibit, Valarie conveys her deep connection with nature through photography inspired cards.



Send eNews articles to eNews@carolinamountainclub.org

The newsletter will go out the last Friday of every month. The deadline to submit news is the Friday before it goes out.

The next issue will come out on Friday, June 26, so send your news by Friday evening at 9 P.M. before the newsletter comes out, that is, by Friday evening, June 19, to Kathy Kyle at eNews@carolinamountainclub.org. Include your email address at the end of your story. Thank you.

Westgate parking - Park in the northernmost part of the lot - past EarthFare, in the last row of parking spaces.

To join Carolina Mountain Club go to: www.carolinamountainclub.org. Click on "Join CMC" on the right side. Follow the instructions. Send all address and email changes to Gale O'Neal at gogalemail@gmail.com. Do not resubscribe yourself to the eNews. That will be done automatically. If you are a non-member subscriber, you need to go back to the eNews and make the change yourself.

Kathy Kyle

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[CMC Calendar](#) [Hike Reports](#) [Future Hikes](#)